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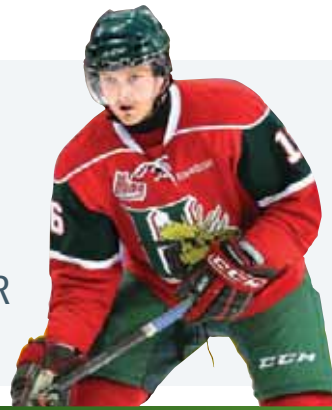


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Report calls for anti-bullying co-ordinator

Education. Minister hints any cyber-bullying measures must come from within existing resources

The provincial government should hire an anti-bullying co-ordinator, more guidance counsellors, and make it explicit school officials have jurisdiction to combat cyber-bullying off of school grounds, according to a new report.

Dr. Wayne MacKay, a Dalhousie University law professor and the province's cyber-bullying task-force chair, presented findings from a 10-month investigation into electronic bullying on Thursday.

MacKay said in order for his 85 recommendations to work, the province needs to create an office for an anti-bullying co-ordinator.

"Our sense was it's not enough to just add it on to

some existing job," MacKay told reporters. "So we suggested a very significant recommendation that there be an anti-bullying co-ordinator, with an office adequately staffed, who is going to co-ordinate the various partners ... selecting the best programs and interventions and also ... monitoring (progress)."



Dr. Wayne MacKay

The report also suggests a one-to-500 ratio of guidance counsellors to students, as well as giving principals the explicit responsibility to address cyber-bullying problems outside school grounds.

While Education Minister Ramona Jennex thanked MacKay and his team for the report, she was wary to commit to hiring any new administration for a department that has seen cuts year after year.

Quotable

"If you're a part-time administrator and a part-time teacher, when do you get to address the issue?"

Alexis Allen, president of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union

"We have a lot of resources already within the department and within school boards," said Jennex.

"Not all of the recommendations are going to be taken as they are written. We are going to be taking the spirit of the recommendations and work with our partners so we can fulfill the mandate of keeping our students safe."

But Alexis Allen, the president of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, said school administration is already stretched thin.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO



**Halifax Rainmen get
THE JOB DONE**

PAGE 31

Halifax Rainmen guard Joey Haywood shoots over London Lightning forward Rodney Buford during the second half of Game 4 of the National Basketball League of Canada final at the Metro Centre on Thursday night. The Rainmen beat the Lightning 93-85 to set up a deciding Game 5 in London on Sunday. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



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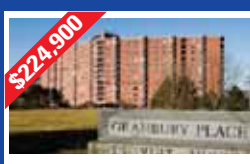
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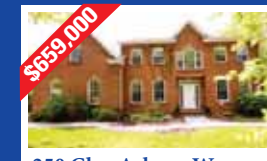
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What a cool place to be on a hot March day

Another scorcher on Thursday. But temperatures are forecast to drop to more seasonable norms now

ADRIAN LEE
halifax@metronews.ca

When life is a beach, our seaside city enjoys a natural ad-

vantage.

"How can you not enjoy Nova Scotia when it's like this?" Tori Sinclair asked Thursday, while watching her kids, Erik and Holly, make sandcastles and splash around on Rainbow Haven Beach.

Sinclair was one of many Haligonians who flocked to the beach — on a midweek March day — wringing whatever they could out of this week's balmy temperatures. Thursday's high of 27 C shat-

tered the day's historical record of 11.8 C, the third day in a row in which a record was broken.

"I was surprised about how many people were here," Sinclair said. "You don't know what tomorrow's going to bring, so you have to take joy where you can find it."

Greg Sheppard said he and his friends had been lying in the sun on the beach for hours on Thursday before rushing in for a dip in the cold water.

Although Josh MacDon-

ald and his wife, Laura, had thought earlier this week of hitting the beach, it took a few days of basking on their own lawn before they finally ventured out.

"I didn't believe it at first," he said, while enjoying a beach picnic.

"It seems surreal," added Laura. "I keep forgetting it's March."

Sunshine remains in the forecast Friday through Sunday, but temperatures will be in the range of 8 to 13 C.

Good day sunshine

- **It's a record.** Before this week, the hottest March temperature recorded in Halifax since 1971 was 25.6 C. The official temperature on Wednesday broke that record. It was listed by Environment Canada as 25.8 C.



Beachgoers enjoy the sunshine and record-high temperatures at Rainbow Haven Beach on Thursday afternoon. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

1

NEWS

Mobile news



As Facebook and Yahoo get ready for a courtroom battle over patents, the social-networking site has turned to IBM for backup. Scan the code for the story.

On the web

Growing up grizzly

Three orphaned grizzly bear cubs that came to the Detroit Zoo from Alaska in December have made their zoo debut. Mike, Thor and Boo spent the winter as they would have in the wild: "denned up."

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Safe. Missing female teens located after police receive phone tip

Two teenage girls reported missing were found safe and sound Thursday afternoon.

The girls, a 13-year-old from Lower Sackville and a 14-year-old from Enfield, left Dartmouth's Bridgeway Academy around noon-time on Wednesday and didn't return. According to police, the two were seen a couple of hours later with two teenage boys at the Wyse Road bus terminal in Dartmouth. The four were getting on a bus and heading to Westphal.

At 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, family members reported the two girls missing when they hadn't heard from them.

On Thursday morning, police issued a release identifying the two girls, including photos, and asked for the public's help in locating them.

RCMP investigators then received a phone tip at about 1 p.m. and the girls were located.

"As (investigators) were following up on some of the leads that were coming in, they located the girls here in Lower Sackville," said Halifax RCMP spokesperson Const. Tammy Lobb.

The girls weren't injured, and were picked up by family and taken home.

ADRIAN LEE/FOR METRO

Happy ending

"The most important thing is that we have located them and they're safe at home."

Halifax RCMP spokesperson
Const. Tammy Lobb

Responding to questions about two girls who went missing Wednesday.

Budget austerity measures too high a price to pay: CCPA

Report. Alternative budget proposes delaying balanced books for two years, less service cut and focus on debt-to-GDP ratio



ALEX
BOUTILIER

alex.boutilier@metronews.ca

Rumours of a deficit crisis in Nova Scotia have been grossly exaggerated, according to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

The CCPA released their "alternative" provincial budget Thursday. The report says the provincial NDP seem to have an "obsession" with getting the province back to balance — which could end up hurting Nova Scotia more than helping.

"The deficit is not the best measure of the sustainability of Nova Scotia's finances," said James Sawler, an economist who contributed to the alternative budget. "If we're looking at how (sustainable) we are as a household, how much debt I can carry, that's going to depend on my in-

Tax cut forecasted

- Finance Minister Graham Steele, in a speech to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, said people can expect a "modest, but real" cut in personal income tax when he tables the 2012-13 budget. That is expected to happen on April 3.

come ... so from a province-wide perspective, we're more interested in our debt-to-GDP ratio."

That ratio has been declining, according to Sawler, from 48.7 per cent in 2000 to 36.6 per cent in 2011. So despite a larger total debt, the proportion of provincial debt-to-GDP has declined.

So rather than balancing the books in 2013-14 — as Finance Minister Graham Steele plans to do — the CCPA recommends aiming for balance in 2015-16. By pushing that deadline out, the CCPA estimates the province can lessen the blow of cuts to government services while reaching a similar debt-to-GDP ratio as planned.

Christine Saulnier, director



Finance Minister Graham Steele listens to a question from the media during his budget forecast and fiscal update on Tuesday. MIKE DEMBECK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

of CCPA's Nova Scotia branch, said the costs associated with austerity are simply too high.

"When we make decisions about public services in our

province, the focus should not be on the money first," said Saulnier. "We always hear that health care takes up a really big part of our

budget. But what we don't hear about is whether we can manage to spend the amount of money that we spend on health care."

Clement downplays civil service cuts



Tony Clement

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Treasury Board President Tony Clement hopes that you're patient enough to wait for next week's federal budget before worrying about cuts to the civil service.

Clement, speaking to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce Thursday, said he can't comment on the austerity measures included in Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's 2012-13 budget.

"What I can say is this: There's a lot of scaremongering going on, a lot (of) people that seem to delight in having people worry about cuts that, in many cases, will never happen," the Conservative MP told reporters.

"I think the best advice I can give to families who have a public servant in their midst is just wait for the budget.... We do have to spend within

our means, but we're going to have a fair and reasonable plan to get there."

When asked directly whether the rumoured number of job cuts in the Atlantic region — 5,400 — was reasonable, Clement said he wouldn't comment on speculative numbers.

"It's not based on fact, they don't have facts, so they just throw a number out there

Cost of red tape

\$12B

Tony Clement was speaking to the Halifax Chamber of Commerce about his department's efforts to reduce red tape in government — citing a Canadian Federation of Independent Business estimate that \$12 billion is lost every year due to "unnecessary" red tape.

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART



Living the dream, not just dreaming it

Support. It's been one year for the Prostate Cancer Canada Atlantic Region office in Halifax

Ten years ago, it was only the dream of dozens — an office in Atlantic Canada dedicated to prostate-cancer support and awareness.

"I remember years ago meeting these warriors who dreamed of this office," said Peter Mallette, the executive director of Prostate Cancer Canada's Atlantic region, which celebrated its one-year anniversary on Thursday. "And I mean, I'm living my own dream, but I'm living their dream as well, and I'm living it through their eyes."

When Mallette was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2005, he joined a Halifax support group, where he found the participants spoke "in hushed tones."

"I don't know if it's male bravado that gets in the way, or there could be a stigma attached to having prostate cancer," he said. "But some of the best information that you're going to get in this journey is from other guys who have been there."

Now, on the first anniversary of its Atlantic region office in downtown Halifax, there are five new volunteer-run support groups in Atlantic Canada, including one for gay men in Halifax.

They also plan to create a support group for African Nova Scotians in September.

As well, they've piloted a men's yoga program, offered support to families and spouses, and have seen a groundswell of volunteer support.

"More people are going, and in our first year of business, we're trying to create awareness however we can," Mallette said.

It hasn't all been easy, however. Its office on Sackville Street serves all of Atlantic Canada, and Mallette said distance has been an obstacle.

He also noted local fundraising has been a challenge as well.

"It's a huge responsibility, but it's one I accept willingly and gladly, and I am just so grateful," Mallette said. "One of the most important things was just to create an awareness that we are here, and we are going to try our best to look after you."

ADRIAN LEE/FOR METRO



Peter Mallette, executive director, Atlantic region, Prostate Cancer Canada, poses for a photo at the Halifax regional office on Thursday afternoon. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Legendary Jimmy Cliff to open for Petty in Halifax



Tom Petty performs at Toronto's Air Canada Centre in 2008. TORSTAR FILE

Hall of Fame musician Jimmy Cliff has been named the opening act for Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' Atlantic Canada tour.

Cliff, a Jamaican-born music legend whose career spans five decades, has produced hits such as You Can Get It If You Really Want and Many Rivers To Cross. He's also collaborated with artists like The Rolling Stones and Annie Lennox, while Willie Nelson and Cher are some of the names who have performed and recorded his

music.

The much-anticipated Petty show will be rocking out the Halifax Metro Centre on Thursday, May 31 at 8 p.m. The concert is one of three shows for Atlantic Canada, with the legendary rockers also taking to the stage at Mile One Stadium in St. John's on June 2 and 3.

According to a release from show promoter David Carver, there are still some tickets remaining for the show in Halifax and the two in St. John's, but they are very

Canadian shows

The three Atlantic Canada shows, including in Halifax on May 29, are the only Canadian stops for Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers in 2012.

limited.

Tickets to see Petty in Halifax cost either \$206.50, \$183.50 or \$103, which includes taxes and service charges.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



Jimmy Cliff FILE

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Facebook becoming all the rage for the over-50 crowd

Social media. But when it comes to Twitter, older population not so willing to start tweeting



BY THE NUMBERS
Rick Emberley
halifax@metronews.ca

The faces on Facebook appear to be getting older.

According to a recent survey of HRM residents, one of the fastest-growing groups of Facebook users is those over 50.

In the past 12 months, the plus-50 crowd on Facebook has grown from just over 30 per cent to 42 per cent.

And almost 50 per cent of those over 50 not currently using this social-media phenomenon expect to be using it within the next year.

For Twitter there appears to be some resistance.

When we asked HRM residents if they were likely to join

Twitter sometime in the next six months, the same number of 18- to 24-year-olds and those over-65 said yes — just over 20 per cent each.

The pattern of a rapid increase in Internet usage by the older population extends across cyberspace into all areas. It is obvious that all consumers are rapidly moving to various forms of online banking and automatic payments. Over 60 per cent of households in our community are managing some aspects of their budget online.

There is one significant exception. There is a huge difference between the young and old when it comes to online shopping.

Barely 40 per cent of the older group has done so over the past six months, whereas 70 per cent of those under 50 used the Internet during that same period to buy products or services.

The gap grew smaller, however, when we asked if the Internet is used to research before buying. The under-50 group

Number surveyed

428

A total of 428 HRM residents were surveyed, with the poll carrying a margin of error of plus-or-minus 4.8 per cent.

reports regularly researching their purchases online — at just over 80 per cent.

But the over-50 crowd is almost as likely to be doing the same thing, with 72 per cent of respondents researching on the Net. They just prefer to continue shopping the old way — at the store.

Here is one last interesting fact about online usage. Females consistently track about 10 per cent higher in all major usage areas including Facebook, online shopping and Twitter.

Rick Emberley is senior counsel with the polling firm MQO Research. He has conducted public-opinion research in the region for more than 25 years.



More Haligonians over 50 are using Facebook, a survey finds. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

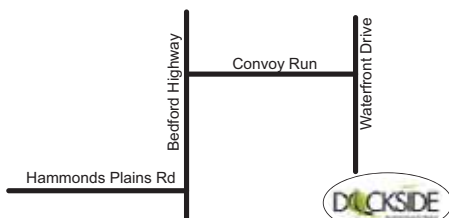


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Education reform. Cuts expected to include teacher layoffs

The Central Regional School Board is releasing specific scenarios that it expects to see happen in light of upcoming education cuts, including loss of teachers.

Board chairwoman Trudy Thompson pointed out the \$6.5-million budget shortfall for 2012-13 could result in reducing more than 125 positions including teachers, educational assistants, library personnel, IT, property, transportation and central and regional office staff.

Communications spokeswoman Carolyn Pierce confirmed with the Truro Daily News that at least 18 teachers are expected to be cut from the board.

"We may see teacher layoffs for the first time," said board vice-chairman Keith MacKenzie.

MacKenzie added cuts to the central office are anticipated to be "over and above last year's 19.5 per cent reduction."

Other expected cuts include the possible elimination of the adult high school, reduced supplies, custodial needs and maintenance pro-

Budget

- The final school board budget will be released later this spring.

jects, to name a few.

"We believe the reductions we are being forced to make will erode our comprehensive education system," said Thompson.

Angela Dwyer James, a school board member representing Truro, said last year the school board was accused of "fear mongering" when it discussed its financial situation.

Dwyer James said it's beneficial to provide the information for the public's knowledge and to fight for improvements to the system.

"I am not going to apologize for standing up for education," she said.

TRURO DAILY NEWS



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Bay of Fundy ferry. N.S. politician upset Maine ferry was overlooked

The Nova Scotia politician who represents Yarmouth is upset over the provincial government's decision to provide funding for a ferry service in the Bay of Fundy.

Liberal member Zach Churchill says the decision flies in the face of those trying to re-establish ferry service between Yarmouth and Maine.

The Nova Scotia and New Brunswick governments announced Wednesday they will provide up to \$6 million in funding over the next three years for the ferry service between Digby and Saint John, N.B.

Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter has said the \$200 million fishing industry in southwestern Nova Scotia relies on the ferry to help deliver their catch to markets in Canada and the United States.

Digby's Mayor Ben Cleve-

land welcomed the news as recognition of the importance of the ferry, not only to the Digby region but to all of southwestern Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

"This will allow more time to secure a new ferry and a long-term solution to maintain the marine highway link between our provinces and the rest of Canada," Cleveland said.

A campaign to have the Yarmouth-Maine service re-established is underway but organizers say it will require government funding for the first couple of years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/
WITH FILES FROM THE DIGBY COURIER



Zach Churchill
RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



The Digby-Saint John ferry is seen in this file photo. THE DIGBY COURIER PHOTO

Dylan LeBlanc

Workers to plead in construction incident

Two workers and officials from a Nova Scotia construction firm will return to provincial court in June to plead to safety charges after a truck ran over a 12-year-old boy, killing him.

Dylan LeBlanc of Cheticamp was killed while riding his bicycle near a local inn that was being renovated in August 2010.

Safety charges were laid against N.W.T. Ltd., the firm that owns Maison Fiset House, and project manager Darren MacPhee and construction worker Andre Aucoin. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drug bust

Man faces trafficking charges

A 20-year-old man has been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking following the search of a home in Halifax.

Halifax Regional Police say the search took place at a residence on Young Street, and a man was arrested.

Cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, scales, and cash were all seized from the residence, police say. METRO

Dartmouth

Two men arrested for drug possession

Two men were charged with drug possession in Dartmouth on Wednesday afternoon.

Halifax Regional Police say the men, aged 37 and 28, were arrested after a search of a residence on Joseph Young Drive. Police say officers then seized marijuana, cocaine, methylamphetamine, cash, and drug paraphernalia. METRO

Fredericton couple

Husband-wife death deemed murder-suicide

Police in Fredericton say a husband and wife found dead in a home earlier this week were involved in a murder-suicide.

Const. Rick Mooney says police have concluded that Kevin Glenn Sharpe, 45, took the life of Rowena Sharpe, 38, before killing himself. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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NDP personnel go over stage logistics on Thursday as the NDP get ready for the leadership convention in Toronto.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP candidates enter home stretch in leadership race

Politics. NDPers will be anxiously waiting this weekend to find out who will follow in Jack Layton's footsteps

For every New Democrat banging a thunderstick on the convention floor in Toronto this weekend, there will be 30 more banging on their keyboards at home.

The system by which NDP members will choose their new leader marks a major change for political conventions, political experts say, with mixed results for both the process and the party.

The majority of NDP members are expected to cast a ballot in advance of online polls, which close Friday. For those ballots, members ranked their choices for leader.

The rest will vote in real time in rounds of balloting,

either at the convention in Toronto or online from wherever they are.

Of the party's 128,000 members, only about 4,000 will be at the convention. Most will be watching — and voting — from afar.

"It will be quite different, particularly given that people will be watching from a distance so they will be very interested in the statements by the leadership candidate and they'll be making their judgment independent from what is happening at the convention and the buzz that's created there," said Prof. Kathy Brock of Queen's University.

At political conventions of yesteryear, votes were held on site. As candidates dropped off the ballot, they'd throw their support behind someone else, creating schools of delegates swimming across convention floors behind the newly chosen one.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The battle heats up

- NDP leadership rivals took aim Thursday at the major pillar propping up Thomas Mulcair's status as front-runner: his cachet in Quebec.
- With the race to find Jack Layton's successor coming to an end this weekend, three of the Mulcair's rivals — Peggy Nash, Nathan Cullen and Paul Dewar — dismissed the notion that the Montreal MP is the only candidate who can hang onto the party's gains in Quebec.
- They were responding to one-time NDP MP Phil Edmonston's assertion this week that it would be an "overwhelming insult" to Quebecers should anyone but Mulcair win — a view widely shared by other Quebec pundits.

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Regime forces recapture major strongholds in Syrian conflict

War zone. Prospects for international action in war-torn Syria fading as momentum shifts in regime's favour

As world leaders close ranks against Syrian leader Bashar Assad, U.S. President Barack Obama summed up the popular wisdom during a recent White House press conference: "Ultimately, this dictator will fall."

That prediction may be premature. Regime forces have retaken the major opposition strongholds, the rebels are low on money and guns, and the U.N. has ruled out any military intervention of the type that tipped the scales against Libya's Moammar Gadhafi.

Relying on the scorched-earth tactics that have kept his family in power for more than 40 years, Assad is in no immediate danger of falling.

Syria's rebels are turning to guerrilla tactics, such as roadside bombs and ambushes, and terrorist groups like al-Qaida

appear to be entering the fray and exploiting the chaos. Assad could hang on indefinitely while an already violent conflict metastasizes into an insurgency that lays waste to the country.

"The international community and the West have been standing by and watching Syria be torn apart," Syrian activist Fadi al-Yassin told The Associated Press on Thursday, speaking by satellite phone from the northern province of Idlib.

Growing fear

"In the end, we worry that there will be no state left for us to build on."

Fadi al-Yassin, Syrian activist

The U.N. estimates that more than 8,000 people have been killed since the uprising began a year ago in a grim cycle of attack and reprisal.

NATO, the U.N. and the U.S. and its allies have all but ruled out foreign military intervention.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Syrian rebels stand next to a destroyed building that was damaged by the shelling of government forces Tuesday at Rastan, central Syria. Troops shelled and raided opposition areas and clashed with rebel fighters around the country Thursday despite U.N. efforts to stop the bloodshed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Viral video adds new dimension to North Korea



Students at the Kumsong school in North Korea became an Internet sensation after covering A-ha's pop song Take on Me. KIM KWANG HYON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As five North Korean teenagers wearing school uniforms grind their accordions into song, what comes out is no sombre ode to either of the late leaders.

Instead, as more than 1.5 million YouTube viewers already know, it's one of the poppiest of 1980s pop songs, A-ha's Take on Me.

The catchy cover by three young men and two women,

recorded in December, became a sensation as it challenged the world's preconceptions about North Koreans.

After taking their arrangement to Norway to perform at an Arctic arts festival, lead player Choe Hyang Hwa and fellow band members gave The Associated Press a peek into their lives at the Kumsong school in Pyongyang.

Norwegian artist Morten

Traavik, who recorded the video during a trip to the school, said the performance hints at how much outsiders don't know about North Koreans.

"For many it is a revelation that North Koreans open up and play Western pop music with such great joy," he said last month. "My idea is to challenge our perceptions of North Koreans."

Traavik invited the en-

semble to an arts festival last month in Kirkenes, on Norway's Arctic border with Russia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

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Baggage handlers

Air Canada ground crew stage wildcat strike in Toronto

Air Canada baggage handlers are staging a wildcat walkout at Toronto's Pearson International Airport, grounding several flights Thursday.

Passengers who had boarded at least one flight bound for Ottawa were told to deplane and return to the terminal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ill patients

Doctor-assisted suicide should be allowed: Panel

A landmark report in Quebec recommends that doctors be allowed to help terminally ill patients die, in exceptional circumstances, if they want to.

The report was released Thursday in the Quebec legislature, after two years of work from the so-called Dying With Dignity Committee.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conflict of interest

Minister broke the rules, watchdog says

Industry Minister Christian Paradis broke conflict-of-interest rules in 2009 when he gave a former Tory colleague preferential treatment to pitch for a government contract, the Commons ethics watchdog said Thursday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Vancouver Island

Stranded teens survive ordeal

Five teenagers have survived two cold, snowy nights on a remote logging road on Vancouver Island after their truck ran out of gas, leaving them with no cellphone service and without any emergency supplies.

RCMP say two women and three men, aged 17 to 19, set off Monday in a four-wheel-drive truck down a road that was covered in deep snow, but ran out of fuel near Lake Cowichan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

McClintic denies being 'engine' behind murder

Warning. Graphic details from this court case may disturb some readers

The woman convicted of killing Victoria Stafford flatly denied a suggestion Thursday that she was the "engine" behind a plot that went deeper than she has let on, saying she didn't think she was walking the eight-year-old girl to her death.

"I take full responsibility for my actions," Terri-Lynne McClintic told court in London, Ont. "I did what I did. But I'm not the only guilty party here, and that's why I'm sitting here today."

The 21-year-old is already serving a life sentence after pleading guilty to first-degree murder, but is now testifying at the trial of her ex-boyfriend. Michael Rafferty, 31, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

The jury has now seen



Terri-Lynne McClintic is transported from court in London, Ont., on March 16.

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

how McClintic's story about the events of April 8, 2009, the day Tori disappeared, has morphed from an all-out denial, to saying she was there but didn't see how Tori died, to saying Rafferty raped Tori and then killed her using a hammer, to now

saying it was she who inflicted the fatal blows.

The latest version of events first came up at a counselling session just days before the start of Rafferty's pre-trial in January, court heard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

McClintic's writing

Journal entries 'disturbing': Lawyer

Michael Rafferty's lawyer Dirk Derstine cross-examined McClintic about journal writings filled with what he called "deeply disturbing, horrifically violent imagery." McClintic wrote about wanting to grab a random person, mutilate them, smash their skull and inflict various manners of torture upon them. At the time she wrote them, she said, a year or two before Tori's murder, she used her writing as an outlet to vent her rage.

"You confessed under oath to beating a child to death with a hammer," Derstine said. "That's a little bit more than anger issues, wouldn't you agree?"

McClintic said she's not proud of who she was then, but she underwent a transformation in July 2008 when she got in touch with her emotions. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Massive march. Students stage large rally in Montreal

A monster crowd that evoked memories of Montreal's famous 1995 pre-referendum rally formed a kilometres-long sea of opposition Thursday to higher university tuition fees.

The protest began in the same downtown square that hosted the pro-Canada love fest just days before the independence referendum.

Like that historic rally, this one filled the square. But it went on, and on, for blocks.

In a spring laden with demonstrations against the Quebec government, Thursday's was easily the largest.

The parade of protest was so long that its front end would be a full neighbourhood — or even two — away from the tail end. An organizing group boasted that the protest spanned 50 city blocks; media estimates of its length varied from two kilometres to more than four.

There were no incidents involving the chanting, placard-waving throng. There were, however, reports of some protesters carrying sticks.

There was also a threat from a major protest group: "If the government doesn't announce a retreat on the (tuition) hike today the next



Thousands of students march through the streets of downtown Montreal with an effigy of Premier Jean Charest in a massive protest against tuition fee hikes Thursday. **RYAN REMIOW/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

step will involve actions that disrupt the economy," the C.L.A.S.S.E. group posted on its Twitter page.

The demonstration came two days after the provincial budget and a blunt refusal by Premier Jean Charest's government to back down on the hikes.

The province is nearly doubling tuition fees over five years, to about \$3,800. It will reach its target with a series of \$325-a-year increases. However, the tuition fees in the province will still be among the lowest in Canada even after the hikes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fighting fee hikes

Protesters come from across Canada

A number of protesters were from other Canadian provinces. One said that, while it might be true that Quebec has low fees, it's a principle worth fighting to keep.

"Where I was from before we were trying to fight the same idea (of fee hikes) — but a lot of people didn't get together like they have in Quebec," said Parker Dorris of Cranbrook, B.C., who studies at Montreal's Concordia University.

"That's one of the main reasons I came to Quebec, because it's such a liberal province and they fight for these kinds of rights."

Another student from Newfoundland and Labrador, 21-year-old Laura Battcock, said she came to Montreal to study dance because the program she wanted didn't exist back home. Now she's afraid she won't be able to afford it if fees increase.

Police did not provide a precise crowd estimate Thursday, but did say that the turnout was probably closer to 100,000 than the 200,000 claimed by protest leaders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Change in course. Military downgrades plan for an Arctic naval facility

Canada's military has quietly downgraded plans for an Arctic naval facility the government has pointed to as a symbol of how seriously it takes northern issues.

"The intent of the (northern naval facility) will remain ... but its functionality will be reduced," says a late February letter. It was sent from the government to the northern environmental regulator overseeing the Nanisivik project on northern Baffin Island at the eastern gate of the Northwest Passage.

"Original plans for permanent buildings including workshops, accommodations and offices have all been scrapped along with plans for waste treatment facilities. The only new building on site is to be a large, unheated warehouse."

"Concerns about shoreline and permafrost stability have set back for years plans to upgrade the existing wharf, originally built in the late 1970s to service the now-closed Nanisivik lead-zinc mine."

Proposals to store two seasons' worth of fuel have been scaled to a single season, halving the size of the projected tank farm. Permanent communications equipment won't be installed.

Other downgrades

- **Not ready.** A research station in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, also promised in 2007, won't be ready until 2017. A major high-altitude research facility was recently shuttered on Ellesmere Island.

The facility will only operate in the summer and will be shut down in the winter.

Those visiting it will stay in trailers now on site. Nanisivik will now depend on the nearby Nunavut community of Arctic Bay for services.

The letter, from project manager Rodney Watson, suggests the changes are new.

"A detailed design is not yet available, as these changes have just recently been determined," he wrote.

Officials from the Defence Department were not immediately available to comment.

"It becomes, basically, a gas station," said Rob Huebert of the University of Calgary's Centre for Military and Strategic Studies.

"What we're doing is taking away from the ability of having people up there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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French standoff ends with murder suspect shot dead

Shock. Suspect in the slaying of three paratroopers, three Jewish schoolchildren and a rabbi boasted to police about crimes

In a dramatic end to a 32-hour standoff, a masked French SWAT team slipped into the apartment of an Islamist extremist Thursday, sparking a firefight that ended with the suspect jumping out the window and being shot dead in the head.

Mohamed Merah, 23, was wanted in the deaths of three French paratroopers, three Jewish schoolchildren and a rabbi — all killed since March 11 in what Merah reportedly told police was an attempt to “bring France to its knees.”

Police had been trying to capture him alive since a predawn raid Wednesday to arrest him at his apartment in the southwestern city of Toulouse.

The killings he was accused of — and boasted about to police — have shocked France, ignited fear in moderate Muslims about stoking discrimination and may even affect the country's upcoming presidential election.

The seven slayings, carried out in three motorcycle shooting attacks, are believed to be the first killings inspired by Islamic radical motives in France



Police officers work outside suspect Mohamed Merah's apartment in Toulouse, France, on Thursday. THIBAUT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, speaking in Paris, said an investigation was under way to see if Merah, a French citizen of Algerian descent who claimed links to al-Qaida, had any accomplices.

His mother and a brother were detained Wednesday by police after the mother's computer became a critical link in tracking Merah down. The brother Abdelkader had already been linked to Iraqi Islamist networks.

The SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors Internet messages, reported Thursday that a lesser-known jihadist group was claiming responsibility for the attacks in France.

SITE said Jund al-Khilafah

issued a statement saying “Yusuf of France” led an attack Monday, the day of Jewish school shootings. There was no independent confirmation of the claim.

Authorities said Merah espoused a radical form of Islam and had been to Afghanistan and the Pakistani militant stronghold of Waziristan, where he claimed to have received training from al-Qaida.

He also had a long record of petty crimes in France for which he served time in prison.

Merah told negotiators he killed to avenge the deaths of Palestinian children and to protest the French army's involvement in Afghanistan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Indian market gutted by fire

A shop owner gestures to firefighters amid debris of shops destroyed in a fire at Hatibagan market in Kolkata Thursday. More than 200 shops and 1,200 stalls have been gutted in the fire in one of the oldest markets in the city, according to police. No casualties have been reported. BIKAS DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Petition

Spanish fans fight to have bull ban overturned

Spanish premier Mariano Rajoy and Nobel literature laureate Mario Vargas Llosa are among 590,000 who have signed a petition to Parliament urging bullfighting to be protected nationally and for a ban to be overturned.

Last year, lawmakers in the Catalonia region banned bullfighting over animal-rights concerns. The ban took effect Jan. 1.

The prohibition triggered a nationwide debate over the centuries-old spectacle that inspired such artists as Goya and Picasso. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murder trial

Teen accused in tourists' killing tried to rob victims: Prosecutor

A U.S. teen accused of killing two British tourists told a friend that he saw the victims walking in his neighbourhood and intended to rob them, prosecutors said Thursday.

Prosecutors said Shawn Tyson, 17, shot them after a robbery gone wrong.

Tyson is charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of 24-year-old James Kouzaris and 25-year-old James Cooper last April. If convicted, Tyson faces life in prison. He cannot face the death penalty because he is 17. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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1-3			4-6			7-10		10+		

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NOVA SCOTIA

Canada



Study. Living in sin before marriage ain't bad if couple is committed

New research by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests times have changed from the days when living together signalled poor chances for a successful marriage later on.

"It's not playing as big a role in predicting divorce as it used to," said Casey Copen, lead author of the study.

The study found those who were engaged and living together before the wedding were about as likely to have marriages that lasted 15 years as couples who hadn't lived together.

But what about the couples who were living together but weren't engaged? The new study found marriage was less likely to survive to the 10- and 15-year mark among couples who weren't engaged when they lived together — findings similar to earlier research.

For example, for women, there was about a 60 per cent likelihood a marriage would survive 15 years if the couple either hadn't lived together before the wedding or were engaged while sharing the same living space.

But if no firm marriage commitment was made while

Study also found:

- **50/50.** Nearly half of first marriages will break up within 20 years.
- **Background.** Asian women were the most likely to be in a long-lasting first marriage.
- **Growing rates.** The percentage of young women currently living with a male partner grew from three per cent in 1982 to 11 per cent recently.

she and her boyfriend were living together, the likelihood the marriage would last fell to 53 per cent. The numbers were similar for men.

Potential explanations include laxer attitudes about commitment, lower education levels or family histories that made these couples more pessimistic about marriage.

Commitment makes a difference. In women with long marriages who lived with their spouse first, firm belief in a future was a common theme.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Want a liquor licence? Ban rap first, Quebec bar told



Diane Marois, co-owner of Le Pionnier. Quebec's liquor-control board has forced the suburban Montreal show bar to outlaw hip-hop and rap acts in exchange for an alcohol permit. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Racist? Anti-racism group calls board's decision discriminatory

The new operators of a suburban Montreal bar promise to showcase the big hair of 1980s tribute bands, stacks of jumbo chicken wings and maybe even a mechanical bull.

But to ensure the watering hole could add booze to that list, they had to promise to do away with one thing: Live hip-hop and rap performances.

Quebec's liquor-control board told the incoming managers of Le Pionnier to outlaw the two music genres if they wanted any hope of acquiring a licence.

An anti-racism group and

Quotable

"We are the guardians of the permits — a permit is not a right, it's a privilege."

Joyce Tremblay, liquor board spokeswoman, who added local police asked the board to include the no-hip-hop condition.

Facebook protest page say the move smacks of discrimination against black people. But the venue's co-owner, who took over the bar last fall, said she had no choice but to agree because the joint needs to serve suds to survive. "My first reaction was (that) it's very discriminatory," said Diane Marois, who co-owns the bar with her husband.

"I don't think it's right in the first place, but ... I'd rather be up and running with a limited venue as opposed to being closed."

A spokesperson for the liquor board said it's "normal" in Quebec for permit applications to include conditions that forbid specific types of musical acts.

She did not have a problem with the condition when asked whether it was a form of discrimination to single out a specific type of music.

Marois said she's surprised how much influence police now wield when it comes to the operations of bars. "I feel the police ... they're stepping out of their bounds."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brazil

Chip-imbedded uniforms track kids

Grade-school students in a northeastern Brazilian city are using uniforms embedded with locator chips that help alert parents if they're cutting classes, the city's education secretary

said Thursday.

Radio frequency chips in "intelligent uniforms" let a computer know when children enter school and it sends a text message to their cellphones.

Parents are also alerted with a message if kids don't show up 20 minutes after classes begin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Webcam spy. Convicted says he's not a homophobe

The former U.S. university student convicted in the webcam spying case that ended in his gay roommate's suicide says he was insensitive but not biased.

"I didn't act out of hate,

and I wasn't uncomfortable with (him) being gay," said Dharun Ravi. He said he didn't think about the consequences. "I know that's wrong," he said, "but that's the truth." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cruising. Two men fined for public sex in Dominica

Two California men pleaded guilty on Thursday to indecent exposure in Dominica after they were arrested during a stop on a gay cruise of the Caribbean.

Police said they were seen

having sex in plain sight of people on land, prompting officers to board the ship and arrest them.

The men's attorney, Bernadette Lambert, said they were remorseful. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Renegade soldiers in Mali oust president

Fall of democracy.

Drunken soldiers loot presidency after coup, just weeks ahead of national election

Drunken soldiers looted Mali's presidential palace hours after they declared a coup on Thursday, suspending the constitution and dissolving the institutions of one of the few established democracies in this troubled corner of Africa.

The whereabouts of the country's 63-year-old president Amadou Toumani Toure, who was just one month away from stepping down after a decade in office, could not be confirmed. The United States Embassy issued a statement dispelling rumours that he had sought refuge in their compound.

Soldiers smelling of alcohol ripped flat-screen TVs, computer monitors, printers and photocopiers out of the presidential palace, carting them

Reaction

"The situation is grave for our democracy and our republican institutions. We cannot approve the seizing of power through force."

Ali Nuhoum Diallo
Former president of Mali's National Assembly

off in plain sight. Others in pickup trucks zoomed across the broad avenues, holding beer bottles in one hand and firing automatic weapons with the other.

The mutineers said they were overthrowing the government because of its mishandling of an ethnic Tuareg insurgency in the country's north that began in January.

Tens of thousands of Mali civilians have been forced to flee. The soldiers sent to fight the separatists have been killed in large numbers, often after being sent to the battlefield with inadequate arms

and food supplies, prompting fierce criticism of the government.

The coup began Wednesday, after young troops mutinied at a military camp near the capital. The rioting spread to a garrison thousands of kilometres away in the strategic northern town of Gao.

By evening, troops had surrounded the state television station in Bamako. At dawn on Thursday, some 20 soldiers huddled behind a table, facing the camera. They introduced themselves as the National Committee for the Reestablishment of Democracy and the Restoration of the State, known by its French acronym, CNRDR.

Criticism of the coup was swift. France is suspending all government co-operation with Mali, except for aid. In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said officials were meeting to discuss whether to cut off the \$137 million in annual U.S. assistance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ousted president

The coup is a major setback for Mali, a landlocked nation of 15.4 million that is poor but fiercely proud of its democratic credentials.

- The current president, a former parachutist in the army, came to power himself in a 1991 coup. He surprised the world when he handed power to civilians, becoming known as The Soldier of Democracy.
- A decade later, he won the 2002 election and was re-elected in 2007. There was never any question that Toure would step down at the end of his term next month.
- The last statement from the presidency came via Twitter from the government's official account. Late Wednesday, they said: "This is not a coup. It's just a mutiny."



Anxious residents run past soldiers in Bamako, Mali, Thursday. HABIBOU KOUYATE/GETTY IMAGES

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Allegations

General suspects Tories leaked story about jet use

Canada's top soldier suspected the Conservative government was behind a plot to damage his reputation when reports emerged last fall that he had used a Challenger jet to join his family on a Caribbean cruise.

Gen. Walter Natynczyk, the chief of defence staff, aired his suspicion after learning a journalist got hold of flight logs that showed him using the military jet to attend sports events, the Calgary Stampede and to catch up to a family trip to the island of Saint Maarten in 2010.

He had missed his scheduled departure in order to attend a repatriation ceremony for four soldiers and a journalist killed in Afghanistan.

Natynczyk met with Harper on Sept. 19 and insisted he had followed the rules at all times. But he said he would repay the government if his Challenger flight was determined to be an improper use of the government jet.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Autopsy. Drowning killed Whitney Houston, but cocaine contributed

Whitney Houston was a chronic cocaine user who had the drug in her system when she drowned in a hotel bathtub, coroner's officials said Thursday after releasing autopsy findings that also noted heart disease contributed to her death.

The disclosure ended weeks of speculation about what killed the Grammy-winning singer on Feb. 11.

Houston was found submerged in the bathtub of her room at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, and her death was ruled accidental. Several bottles of prescription medications were found in her hotel room, but coroner's officials said there weren't excessive quantities.

Beverly Hills police said in a statement there was no evidence of wrongdoing in connection with Houston's death.

Coroner's Chief of Operations Craig Harvey said cocaine and its by-products were found in Houston's system, and the drug was listed as a contributing factor in her death. He said the results indicated Houston was a chronic cocaine user.

Toxicology results also showed Houston had ma-



Whitney Houston
DAN STEINBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

rijuana, Xanax, the muscle relaxant Flexeril, and the allergy medication Benadryl in her system. Houston died just hours before she was scheduled to appear at producer Clive Davis' pre-Grammy Awards bash.

The singer also had buildup of plaque in her arteries that can restrict blood flow. Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said the condition is common in drug users.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tech troubles

Megaupload host: Pay expenses or lose data

The company hosting the frozen data of millions of users of the file sharing site Megaupload says somebody needs to pay the company's bill or allow it to delete the data.

Carpathia Hosting filed an emergency motion this week in U.S. federal court in

Virginia seeking protection from the expense of hosting the data of up to 66 million users. It says it is using more than 1,100 servers to store the 25 million gigabytes of data.

In the motion filed Tuesday, the Virginia-based company said it is paying \$9,000 a day to host the data, which works out to more than \$500,000 since January. That is when U.S. authorities shut down the Megaupload site and worked with authorities in New Zealand to have its founder, Kim Dotcom, arrested. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Brewing bill

U.S. rethinking alcohol laws

An explosion of interest in home brewing is forcing lawmakers across the U.S. to review long-forgotten alcohol laws, some of which date back to Prohibition.

Last week, the Wisconsin legislature passed a bill to allow the transport and sharing — but not sales — of homemade beer and wine. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Amber Hill, left, and her father, Howard Hill, wait to sample a beer at the BrewFest in Racine, Wis. **MARK HERTZBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Losing ground. Canadians hang up on BlackBerry in favour of the iPhone

Research In Motion has been ousted from the top spot in the Canadian smartphone market by Apple's iPhone.

"The new smartphones that compete with BlackBerry — they're not worse and they're cooler," said Queen's University marketing professor and tech expert John Plinius.

The Waterloo, Ont., company shipped just more than two million BlackBerrys last year in Canada, compared with 2.85 million units for Apple, says a report by Bloomberg, based on data compiled by Bloomberg and tech trends

firm IDC.

Smartphones using Google's Android operating system, like Samsung, Motorola and HTC, also have been eating away at RIM's market share globally.

RIM has stepped up its marketing efforts to promote BlackBerrys in North America, especially the lucrative U.S. market, where tech-savvy consumers haven't been buying as many of them.

BlackBerrys simply aren't being pitched hard enough to consumers, Plinius said.

"The average business person is seeing everybody using



Is BlackBerry losing the smartphone war? **RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Apples and there is a seduction about being cool and having the latest."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oil issue. Obama calls for fast-tracking southern leg of Keystone pipeline

U.S. President Barack Obama pushed Thursday for the speedy approval for the southern leg of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline as he insisted oil has an important place in his national energy plans.

"Today, I am directing my administration to cut through red tape, break through bureaucratic hurdles and make this project a priority," Obama said to applause as he stood in front of stacks of pipe to be used to build a portion of Keystone XL from Cushing, Okla., to Gulf Coast refineries.

The southern leg of Key-



U.S. President Barack Obama **PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

stone XL is already slated to begin construction as early as June. Calgary-based TransCanada has been waiting for a permit from just one remain-

ing agency overseeing public works, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

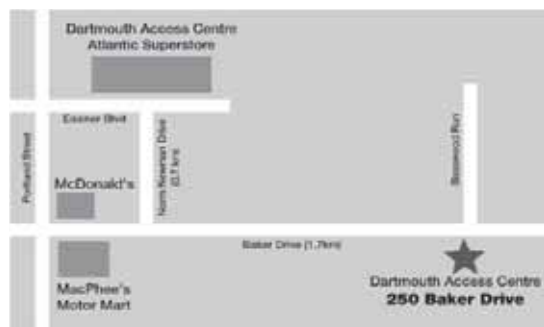
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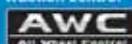
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THE LIST
Mike Benhaim
Metro

1 **Body of work:** Charlie Sheen's porn-star ex-girlfriend Bree Olson produced a video designed to hasten the capture

of fugitive Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony. The clip shows a bikini-clad Olson wiggling in the sand, while flashing harsh images of the conflict. Because nothing screams "justice" quite like a healthy dose of cleavage. Where was she when we were trying to free Nelson Mandela?

2 **Punk'd in Space:** Sir Richard Branson has declared that his Virgin Galactic spaceships "are built and flying in the final stages of our exhaustive test flight program." Tickets to outer space will cost about \$200,000 US. Ashton Kutcher has already signed on for the Virgin voyage, and will attempt to stash his assets far from Demi Moore.

3 **Take a byte:** Thousands of consumers lined up outside of Apple's flagship stores in NYC last week to buy the newest iPad. Investment firm UBS conducted a survey to find out why customers hadn't attempted to order online. A handful of people stated, "What else would we do on a Friday night? We're nerds."

4 **Poetic Demeanor:** Congrats to Kris Demeanor on becoming Calgary's first poet laureate. He hopes to find creative ways to get Calgarians into the enjoyment of language. Engaging Canadian youth might be a challenge, but perhaps he can create rhymes in SMS. "R U well? Luv ur smell. Lol." Good luck, Kris!

5 **Sign of the times:** So jaded are sports fans in Toronto that when a player like Phil Kessel actually reaches peak performance, all we can say is "Quick, trade him!" The rationale, of course, is that it's got to be downhill from here. I liken this to my wife serving me leftovers from a delicious home-cooked meal, and saying, "Eat fast. It's just about to rot."

6 **Retro in HD:** This Sunday marks the long-awaited two-hour premiere of Mad Men's 5th season. The show is popular among those nostalgic for a time when men had body hair and women had real breasts. Also recommended for anyone feeling guilty about their parenting skills, or how much they drink and smoke.

7 **Ready to Rumba:** Dancing with the Stars premiered this week with an odd crew of has-beens, might-bes and barely-ares. Nevertheless, after watching 15 intermittent minutes, I am prepared to make predictions. A "Pip-less" Gladys Knight will lose early, but thank the lord for the journey. Urkel will do the robot at least once and Martina Navratilova will struggle not to lead. Finalists: Welsh soprano Katherine Jenkins, Latino stud William Levy and Prairie star Melissa Gilbert.

8 **Beach-body:** Every spring we discover our "winter fat" and torture ourselves with diets. Now, there is a great new book called Unjunk Your Junk Food, for people (like me) who refuse to forgo the sweets for more than a couple of days. Instead of contradicting Marie Antoinette, Andrea Donsky and friends will simply tell you which cake to choose. A free sneak peek is available for download at naturallysavvy.com. Also, when returning from the supermarket, try taking the stairs.

Check out my hot panels



GETTY IMAGES

Harnessing the sun

Obama takes a shine to solar energy

BOULDER CITY, NEV. Amid soaring fuel prices, Obama finds solace in solar.

U.S. President Barack Obama speaks at Copper Mountain Solar 1 facility, the largest photovoltaic solar plant in the United States. Obama is on a four-state trip to promote renewable fuels and increasing domestic oil and gas production.

MWN

Bright facts

- **Most untapped renewable resource.** More energy hits Earth from the sun in one hour than the whole planet uses all year; 120,000 terrawatts of solar energy hits Earth daily. Over one year, Earth uses 15 terrawatts of energy.
- **Poor-efficiency conversion.** Solar panels now have efficiency conversion rate of 15 per cent; water turbines up to 90 per cent.

He says:



Obama said jokingly as he walked past a solar panel.

"I don't want to break one of these. They look expensive."

A lot of power

1 million

solar panels are at the Copper Mountain plant, which at peak performance are capable of producing 58 megawatts of clean electricity, enough to power more than 17,000 average homes.



The cast of Mad Men. AMC/THE CANADIAN PRESS

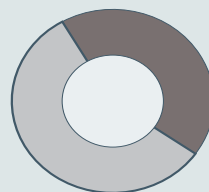


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Twitter

@Christine_Goss: 27 degrees today.....is scaring me. What is going on.....? (Not that I'm complaining). I'm just confused. #Halifax

@samps86: You know its warm out when you see girls in short shorts and seniors in socks and sandals #halifax

@ChaseSabourin: Dear Global Warming, let them haters hate, I adore you! Sincerely, Haligonians tanning in March.

#Halifax

@danvanessen: Hot 26°C days like today in #Halifax make me glad I'm no longer operating a #crematorium in a 3-piece suit! #hotjobs

@Macloeford: Patio beers at the Moustache in #halifax. Best way to spend a March afternoon at work. #29andcounting #mydateto-nightisgoingtohateme



Jennifer Lawrence has found the role she'll likely forever be associated with in *The Hunger Games*. HANDOUT

Film will satisfy hungry fans

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



The Hunger Games.

Jennifer Lawrence brings an emotional richness to the book's main character, Katniss Everdeen

Richard: Mark, from its opening moments, *The Hunger Games* feels more intimate than your average blockbuster thanks to some inventive hand held camera work. And that's a good thing. As fans of the books know, the focus of the story is the characters. Sure, they are thrown into a wild situation, but admiring Katniss Everdeen's inner strength and courage or Peeta Mellark's big heart is as important to the success of the story as are the action scenes or the dystopian premise. What did you think?

Mark: Yes, but I never quite

saw Katniss and Peeta as a couple, perhaps because she seems so much more savvy than him, or perhaps because he has the name of a Lebanese flatbread. But Jennifer Lawrence is strong enough to carry this movie on her own, anyway; she's that good. As far as the rest of the film goes, I loved the first 40 minutes — everything that leads up to the actual games — but found the rest of it a bigger budget version of *Survivor* on steroids.

RC: Lawrence has found the role that she will, likely, forever be associated with and brings substance to it. She gives Katniss a rich inner life — you can see the machinations of the character churning behind her eyes. Without her level of performance this would be a far less interesting movie. Having said that, I enjoyed the movie's steampunk world; that mix of old and new to create something familiar, yet strange.

MB: I thought the art direction and costuming of the capitol really created a vivid portrayal of a decadent, fey society. Although I have to say that Elizabeth Banks' over the top Marie Antoinette impression was grating and out of whack with even the most satirical elements of the movie. And the satire worked for me — it isn't really that far from current reality shows. Although there were derivative elements in the story, using teenagers as contestants amps up the cruelty factor.

RC: I enjoyed Banks. I thought she brought some much-needed levity to a grim story about kids killing one another. But as much as I enjoyed the movie — and I really did — I couldn't help but wonder what a truly visionary director like Terry Gilliam might have done with this material.

MB: Yes, I did think Gary Ross, director of sweet fare

Synopsis

- The *Hunger Games* is set in Panem, a dystopian world ruled by a fascistic leader (Donald Sutherland). Each year the state holds The Hunger Games, a battle to death between 24 players, two from each of the country's districts. The televised games are equal parts *Miss Universe*, *American Idol* and *Death Race*. The story follows two "tributes" from District 12: Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson), two reluctant warriors whose survival is at stake.

- Richard ●●●●●
- Mark ●●●●●

like *Pleasantville* and writer of *Big*, was an odd choice. But casting Woody Harrelson as the mentor? Brilliant choice!

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Alabama honours Octavia

Oscar-winning actress Octavia Spencer is being honoured at the Alabama Statehouse, where about 400 people turned out to welcome her. Spencer won this year's best supporting actress Oscar for her performance as a maid in *The Help*. She rode up to the Statehouse in a pink limousine for the Wednesday ceremony. As she stepped out, she was serenaded by the band from her alma mater, Jefferson Davis High School. A Montgomery native, Spencer told the crowd that she would do whatever she could to see that more movies are made in Alabama. She also cautioned young people in the audience to think twice before heading to Hollywood to become a movie star.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web



Gay-themed movie by Serbian director helps overcome Balkan ethnic divide and homophobia

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Capital Health

Will Lily Collins be the fairest of them all?

Mirror Mirror. Young actress talks about her new role, and giving the beloved Snow White story some modern twists



NED
EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Lily Collins faces quite the tall order with director Tarsem Singh's *Mirror, Mirror* — namely, putting a non-animated face and an updated spin on perhaps the most classic of fairy tales, *Snow White* and the Seven Dwarves. But it's a challenge she's been happy to tackle. Even with a competing *Snow White* film grabbing headlines and a presidential election looming — Collins (a.k.a. singer Phil's daughter) covered the 2008 race for Nickelodeon — she is working hard to keep her focus where she wants it.

Did you ever think, in playing a fairy tale princess, that you'd get to do an action movie training montage?

No! I mean, it was written in the script that she meets the dwarves and there would be sword fighting, but the script changed so much during filming that this montage, when it was added, I thought, "This is going to be so much fun to shoot." It took a long time to shoot, but when it's all cut together with the music, it's just so fun. And I never thought that I'd be sword-fighting and fencing and learning all these cool stunts.

It is an interesting update. Fairy tales traditionally aren't great for their female characters — lots of sitting around and pining, waiting to be rescued.

And that's what we did not want. We didn't want to take the animation and just make it live-action. We wanted to take it and have a reason to redo it. In today's day and age, girls are very empowered to do the same things



Mirror Mirror opens next Friday. HANDOUT

that guys do. And young girls want to see movies that show people that they admire are not needing the prince as much as they used to — or the fact that a princess can save a prince just as much as a prince can save a princess.

There's that other Snow White movie coming out in June. How much were you aware of the competing project?

Aesthetically and with the storyline, they're so different. And the advertising has shown that so far. I think more of the struggle was just this whole, like, who's coming out first kind of a thing and making sure there's enough time in between so that everyone's not overloaded with the fairy tale. But that never really trickled down to us on set, I think.

Drama



In Darkness

Director. Agnieszka Holland

Stars. Robert Wieckiewicz, Benno Fürmann

An Oscar-nominee for Best Foreign Language Film, great performances aid *In Darkness* to construct the factual tale of a thieving opportunist who risked lives to hide Jews in the filthy sewers of occupied Poland during the Second World War. Although the structure of Holocaust survival stories have become, dare I say it, almost familiar on-screen by now, Agnieszka Holland still boils down the essence of humanity.

STEVE GOW

Drama



Salmon Fishing in the Yemen

Director. Lasse Hallstrom

Stars. Ewan McGregor, Emily Blunt

Aiming for gentle charm and arriving at mercilessly manufactured whimsy, *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* is an embarrassment to its talented stars Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt and par for the course for pseudo-prestige director Lasse Hallstrom. Hallstrom's plodding, tonally uneven direction makes matters even worse.

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Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

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Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:55-4:45
Wanderlust (14) Digital, , Stadium
Seating Fri-Sun 9:20 Digital, , Stadium
Seating Mon 9:35 Digital, , Stadium Seat-
ing Tue 9:20

Imax
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers
Lake 902-876-4800

The Hunger Games: The IMAX Experience (14) Digital, Stadium Seating, Fri-Wed 1-4:7:15-10:15 Digital, Stadium Seating, Thu 1-3:45:7:15-10:15
Oxford Theatre
6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG) Fri-Sun 4-6:30-9 Mon 5:30-8 Tue 3-5:30-8 Wed-Thu 5:30-8

Park Lane
5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

21 Jump Street (14) Stadium Seating
Fri-Sat 1:15-3:50-7:30 Stadium Seating
Sun 1:15-3:50-7:25 Stadium Seating
Mon 3:50-7:25 Stadium Seating Tue
3:50-7:30 Stadium Seating Wed-Thu
3:50-7:25
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Stadium Seating
Fri Sun 12:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Wed
3:45 Stadium Seating Thu 3:45-6:50-9
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Stadium
Seating Fri-Sat 3:10-6:55-9:10 Stadium
Seating Sun 3:10-6:50-9 Stadium Seating
Mon 6:50-9 Stadium Seating Tue 6:55-9
Stadium Seating Wed 6:50-9
Friends With Kids (STC) Stadium
Seating Fri-Sat 1:10-4-6:30 Stadium
Seating Sun 1:10-4-7:10-9:50 Stadium
Seating Mon 3:55-6:20 Stadium Seating
Tue 3:55-7:20-10:05 Stadium Seating
Wed 3:55-9:50 Stadium Seating Thu
3:55-7:10-9:50
The Hunger Games (14) Stadium
Seating Fri-Sat 12:30-1-3:35-4:05-6:45-
7:10-9-9:45-10:15 Stadium Seating Sun
12:30-1-3:35-4:05-6:45-7:30-9:15-9:45

Stadium Seating Mon 3:35-4:05-6:45-
7:30-9:15-9:45 Stadium Seating Tue
3:35-4:05-6:45-7:10-9:15-9:45-10:15
Stadium Seating Wed 3:35-4:05-6:45-
7:30-9:15-9:45 Stadium Seating Thu
3:35-4:05-6:45-7:30-9:45
In Darkness (STC) Stadium Seating
Fri-Sat 12:15-3:20-7:30 Stadium Seating
Sun 12:15-3:20-7:15 Stadium Seating
Mon 4-7:15 Stadium Seating Tue 4-7:30
Stadium Seating Wed 4-7:15 Stadium
Seating Thu 4-7:30
John Carter (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun
12:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu
3:40
John Carter 3D (PG) Stadium Seating
Fri-Sat 3:40-6:50-9:55 Stadium Seating
Sun 3:40-6:35-9:35 Stadium Seating Mon
6:35-9:35 Stadium Seating Tue 6:50-9:55
Stadium Seating Wed-Tue 6:35-9:35
National Theatre Live: She Stoops to
Conquer (STC) Stadium Seating Thu 8
A Separation (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat
12:20-3-6:35-9:20 Stadium Seating
Sun 12:20-3-6:30 Stadium Seating Mon-
Wed 3:30-6:30 Stadium Seating Thu 3:30-
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14) No Passes,
Stadium Seating Thu 10:10

Lower Sackville

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21 Jump Street (14), Stadium Seating
Fri 7-9:35, Stadium Seating Sat 1-4-7-
9:35, Stadium Seating Sun 1-4-7-9:40,
Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G), Stadium Seating
Sat-Sun 1:10
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G), Stadium
Seating Fri 6:50-9:20, Stadium Seating
Sat-Sun 3:30-6:50-9:20, Stadium Seating
Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
The Hunger Games (14), No Passes,
Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-7:30-9:40, No

Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 12:40-1:15-
 3:45-4:20 6:45-7:30-9:40, No Passes,
 Stadium Seating Sun 12:40-1:15-3:45-
 4:20-6:45-7:30-9:30, No Passes, Stadium
 Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-7:20-9:30
 John Carter (PG), Stadium Seating
 Sat-Sun 12:30
 John Carter 3D (PG), Stadium Seating
 Fri 6:30-9:15, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun
 3:20-6:30-9:15, Stadium Seating Mon-
 Thu 3:20-9:15
 Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (STC),
 Stadium Seating Fri 6:40, Stadium Seating
 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:40, Stadium
 Seating Mon-Thu 6:45
 The Vow (STC), Stadium Seating Fri
 6:55-9:10, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun
 1:20-3:50-6:55-9:10, Stadium Seating
 Mon-Wed 6:35-9:35, Stadium Seating
 Thu 6:35
 Wanderlust (14), Stadium Seating Fri-
 Sun 9, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 9:10
 Wrath of the Titans 3D (14), No Passes,
 Stadium Seating Thu 9:45

Dartmouth

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Crossing
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21 Jump Street (14) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:20-1:10-3:55-4:30-6:20-7:40-10-10:30 Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:50-1:15-3:55-4:30-6:20-7:30-9:20-10
Dr. Seuss's the Lorax (G) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:05-3:30-7:10-10:10 Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:10-4:35-7:10-10:10
Dr. Seuss's the Lorax 3D (G) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:35-4:20-7:30-9:55 Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:40-9:55
The Hunger Games (14) Stadium Seating, Digital Fri-Thu 12:30-3:45-7:10-15, Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12-12:50-1:30-3:15-4:10-6:30-7:20-7:55-

9:30-9:50, Digital, Stadium Seating
Mon-Thu 12:1-1:40 3:15-4:30 6:30-7:20-
8-9:30-9:50
John Carter (PG), Digital, Stadium Seating
Fri 11:45 Digital, Stadium Seating
Sat-Sun 11:45 Digital, Stadium Seating
Mon-Thu 12:15
John Carter 3D (PG) Digital, Stadium
Seating Fri-Thu 3:05-6:35-9:40
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (STC)
Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:10-
3 Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu
1:35-3:50
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D
(STC) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun
12:10-3 Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-
Thu 1:35-3:50
Safe House (STC) Digital, Stadium Seating
Fri-Sun 1:20-4:35-7:35-10:20 Digital,
Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-
6:50-9:35
A Thousand Words (PG) Digital,
Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:25-3:35-6:45-
9:35 Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed
12:40-3:35-6:45-9:10 Digital, Stadium
Seating Thu 12:40-3:35-6:45
The Vow (STC) Digital, Stadium Seating
Fri-Sun 6:15-9:15 Digital, Stadium
Seating Mon 9:45 Digital, Stadium
Seating Tue-Thu 6:15-9:45
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14), No Passes,
Stadium Seating Thu 10

Truro

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20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

21 Jump Street (14) Digital, Stadium
Seating Fri 6:40-10 Digital, Stadium Seat-
ing Sat-Sun 3:05-6:40-10 Digital, Stadium
Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-10
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Stadium Seating
Fri 6:50-8:55 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun
3:25-6:50-8:55 Stadium Seating Mon-
Wed 6:50-8:55 Stadium Seating Thu
6:50-9:10

The Hunger Games (14) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-7-9:05-9:35 Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:15-3:30-6:30-7-9:05-9:35 Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-7-9:05-9:35
John Carter (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:35-9:30 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:45-9:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:35-9:30
A Thousand Words (PG) Stadium Seating, Digital Fri 6:55-9:10 Stadium Seating, Digital Sat-Sun 3:20-6:55-9:10 Stadium Seating, Digital Mon-Wed 6:55-9:10 Stadium Seating, Digital Thu 6:55
Wanderlust (14) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:20 Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:10-6:45-9:20 Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:20
Wrath of the Titans (14) Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 10

Bridgewater

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349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

21 Jump Street (14) Fri 7:05-9:25 Sat
3:05-7:05-9:25 Sun 3:05-6:20-8:40 Mon-
Thu 6:20-8:40
Act of Valor (14) Fri-Sat 9:45 Sun-Thu 9
The Descendants (14) Fri 6:55-9:30 Sat
2:55-6:55-9:30 Sun 2:55-6:10-8:45 Mon-
Thu 8:10-8:45
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Sat-Sun 3:15
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Sat 7:15-
9:20 Sun-Thu 6:30-8:35
The Hunger Games (14) Fri 6:30-6:45-
9:35 Sat 2:30-3-6:30-6:45-9:35
Sun 2:30-3-5:45-6-8:15-8:50 Mon-Tue
5:45-6-8:15-8:50 Wed 5:45-6-6:45 Thu
5:45-6-8:15-8:50
John Carter (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat 2:45-
6:50-9:40 Sun 2:45-6:05-8:55 Mon-Thu
6:05-8:55
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (STC)
Sat-Sun 2:35
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D
(STC) Fri-Sat 6:35 Sun-Tue 5:50 Thu 5:50



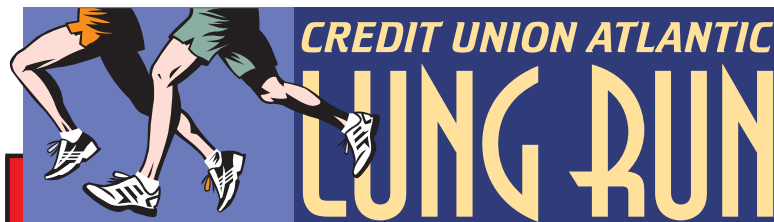
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Guitarist Slash Poses for a photograph in Toronto. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

10 questions for Slash

The former Guns 'N Roses man speaks out. Talks about his new album, his love of Canadians and how his pet snake likes music

ALAN CROSS
scene@metronews.ca

For a Guns 'N Roses survivor — and someone who's been saved by defibrillator paddles three times — Slash looks awfully healthy sitting in his Toronto hotel suite on the eve of Canadian Music Week (CMW).

You must like coming up for this event.
I love coming up here — twice in three years — but the timing for CMW is just something that sorta happens.

This album is billed as Slash featuring Myles Kennedy and the Conspirators. Why?
The first solo record I did was called Slash but when we took the band on the road, I called it Slash featuring Myles Kennedy (Slash's singer).

That became a bigger event than I expected. So when I thought about doing

Quote

"Ian has a great voice and he did an audition for Velvet Revolver."

Slash
Speaking about Ian Thornley.

another record with Brent (Fitz, drummer) and Todd (Kearns, bassist, ex of Age of Electric), I needed to give some kind of credit to the guys who were the backline.

You seem to have a thing for hiring Canadians for your band.
Brent is from Ottawa, or Toronto?

He's gonna kill me. And Todd is from Vancouver. He's a great singer, too.

Tell me about Ian Thornley.

Ian has a great voice and he did an audition for Velvet Revolver. The catch was he wanted to play guitar.

You recently appeared on the U.K. edition of Top Gear. How was that?

It was OK although I couldn't get the hang of the left-hand stick in the rain. The Stig couldn't understand why I

had issues.

How did the commercials for the Los Angeles Zoo with Betty White come about?
Me and Betty are on the board for the zoo. There's a new reptile exhibit and I'm a big reptile guy. We just thought it would be fun.

You got to play at Muhammed Ali's 70th birthday celebration.
That was a tremendous honour. He's one of my idols.

You've done some recording with Steve Adler (GNR drummer in the Appetite for Destruction era).
I got him to play on my record and I promised that if he'd stay clean, I'd play on his.

Word is that your snake, Sam, really likes the new album, Apocalyptic Love (due May 22).
The first time through he just lay there. The second time he was all over the cage. So I figure he either digs it or wants to move.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction ceremony: what's going to happen?
I don't know. I'm just going to show up.

A universal question: Is it Friday yet?

Country music album hitting home with Canadians. Gord Bamford's feel-good anthem hitting stride

JESSICA SMITH
Metro in Ottawa

Whether you're touring country musician Gord Bamford or an office-tower type, you probably know the feeling: you're working so dang hard you're not even sure if it's Friday yet.

The title track of Canadian country singer Bamford's latest album, *Is It Friday Yet?* has hit home with all kinds of Canadians, he said Tuesday while preparing for a small private show in Ottawa.

"I'm definitely going to be getting that question the rest of my life," he said.

"It doesn't matter if you're in an office tower in Toronto or Ottawa or a tractor in some rural community, everybody can't wait for the weekend."

When he's not on tour, Bamford is waiting for the weekend so he can spend time with his three kids, he said. Bamford grew up with country music in Lacombe, Alta.

He got a start by winning



Gord Bamford stands behind the bar at The Crazy Horse in Ottawa. He sings about waiting for an "ice-cold beer" in his song *Is It Friday Yet?* But Bamford said his drink of choice is vodka. JESSICA SMITH / METRO

the Nornet Radio Network's Search for the Stars, a much lower-profile competition than the reality TV competitions of today, he said.

"They're definitely creating a lot of stars out of reality television these days," he

said.

"Some people are getting an opportunity they never would I guess if they were doing it the hard way, coming up through the trenches."

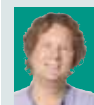
Despite his radio competition win, Bamford says he

worked hard playing shows at small bars on his way up, something that shows in the subject matter and success of *Is It Friday Yet?*

"It's just a feel-good anthem song that's done real good for us so far," he said.

Sound Check

How much can I earn as a YouTube musician?



SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

I've been following the progress of Burlington, Ontario's Walk Off the Earth ever since they posted their five people/one guitar performance of Gotye's *Somebody That I Used to Know* back in January. As I write this, the video has been viewed 74,423,421 times. That's about one-tenth the number of people who have seen Justin Bieber's *Baby*, but it's still a magnificent achievement, especially for an indie band.

If you've watched any music video on YouTube, you'll have seen the ads that come with each one. YouTube is the world's largest streamer of music and these ads have allowed it to monetize what many once believed was un-monetizable.

I was curious about what this means in financial terms to artists like Walk Off the Earth, so I talked to some people in the industry

who know how such things work. Let's try to estimate things, shall we? YouTube's payment rate is approximately \$2.50 CPM, which means for every one thousand views of a video, it pays out \$2.50 US. YouTube keeps 50 per cent of all revenues. Fifteen per cent goes to the rights holder of the song (the publisher/copyright holder) while the remaining amount — 35 per cent — goes to the performer. Now let's do the math. First, divide 74.5 million views by 1,000 to get the CPM number. Multiply that number (74,500) by \$2.50 and you have total gross advertising revenues of \$186,250. Of that, YouTube keeps half, which is \$93,125. The rest is divided between the publisher (15 per cent of \$186,250 or about \$28,000; Gotye gets a piece of this) and the band (35 per cent of \$186,250 or a shade over \$65,000). Finally, divide that amount amongst the five members of the band and you have earnings of \$13,000 each.

Not bad when you consider that this is the product of 14 hours work in front of a video camera but a little sobering when you consider how difficult it is to get that many people to watch a single video.



Janie Bryant's latest collection for Banana Republic —inspired by Mad Men Season 5. HANDOUT

'It's about an era of lounging poolside'

Janie Bryant. The Mad Men costume designer talks Season 5 and her latest Banana Republic collection

KENYA HUNT
scene@metronews.ca

The new season of Mad Men has been shrouded in CIA-like secrecy. As the premiere date draws closer, we try our best to extract a few clues about what to expect from costume designer Janie Bryant.

Now that we're just days away from the season premiere and the cast photos have been released, what can you reveal about the look of the characters? How has their wardrobe evolved since last season?

Honestly, I'm sworn to secrecy until the premiere on March 25. You'll have to wait and see!

Men collection for Banana Republic reflect the look of Season 5?

Our second collection was inspired by the characters while at the club because of the fun contrast to the home and office settings. It's about an era of lounging poolside or attending a 4th of July barbecue in a crisp blue polo shirt and stunning the crowd in a lush ivory dress.

When creating the collection, were you obligated to design it in such a way that wouldn't give away too many details about the actual show?

For this collection, [Banana Republic creative director Simon Kneen] and I talked a lot about the characters and scenes that inspired us, the roles they were playing, the emotions they're going through, and worked to translate all that context into beautiful design. We stayed with the traditional Mad Men look that viewers have come to love.

to feel both vintage and very 2012.

It was about taking a vintage look and updating it with a modern twist. We took some of our favourite trending colours and prints, like the bright pinks and large florals in some of the women's pieces, and fit them on a '60s silhouette, like a capri pant or nip-waist dress.

The first four seasons of Mad Men helped spark a global obsession with the mid-century way of dressing, influencing an entire season of ready-to-wear collections. Do you think Season 5 will do the same thing for late '60s dressing?

People identify with the costume design of the characters and there has already been a clear resurgence of 1960s trends on runways this spring. Beautiful, dressed-up tailoring with emphasis on the waist; bright colours for ladies; and tailored, slim-cut apparel for men are all making a comeback. But as far as Season 5 goes I really can't comment!

OK, how does the new Mad

The new collection manages

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Madge to push for gay rights in Russia

Madonna is set to return to Russia on her tour this summer, and the planned visit is already causing controversy as the pop icon says she plans to defy a new statute in St. Petersburg that outlaws promoting homosexuality.

"I will come to St. Petersburg to speak up for the gay community and to give strength and inspiration to anyone who is or feels oppressed."

pressed. I'm a freedom fighter," Madonna said in an email, according to Bloomberg.

"I don't run away from adversity. I will speak during my show about this ridiculous atrocity."

Madonna is scheduled to perform in Moscow on August 7 and St. Petersburg on August 9.



Kelly and Valderrama a hot new item?

Minka Kelly and Wilmer Valderrama have been turning heads with their public displays of affection, according to Us Weekly.



Minka Kelly

The rumoured couple popped up at Greystone Manor Supperclub in West Hollywood, where "they were kissing and grinding," a source says. "They were very flirty and dancing close. They even left with each other."

They were also spotted at Disneyland last month and having dinner earlier this month.

So how serious are things getting between Valderrama and Kelly, who split with Yankees star Derek Jeter last year?

"I wouldn't say they're boyfriend and girlfriend," a source says. "But he's started ignoring calls from some of his other girls."



Wilmer Valderrama

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

'I'm in love with love.'

Kardashian opens up about the divorce



THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Kim Kardashian opened up to Jay Leno about her quickie marriage to Kris Humphries on Wednesday night. It was a lot of what you'd expect: It was nobody's fault, "she still believes in love," blah, blah, blah.

Basically, Kardashian did a great job of making a divorce sound as un-juicy as possible (which is very hard to do).

"I'm a girl who really believes in love, I'm in love with love and I thought this was it for me," she told Leno, never referring to Humphries by name, only as "someone else."

The 31-year-old said that when she "realized [the marriage] wasn't [what] I thought," she "tried to be really respectful of everyone involved."

"I've heard stories of



Kim Kardashian GETTY IMAGES

people who were married for 10 years and they knew it wasn't right, but they wanted to stick it out and had kids," she said.

"I want that forever. I believed in love, I still do. But to be fair to everyone, I knew I had to end it and I'm OK with that decision."

I'm glad she still believes in love. And I rest easy at night knowing she probably also believes in the kind of love that she can make the most money off of.

Rimes may join The X Factor judges

Eddie Cibrian confirms that wife LeAnn Rimes has been in talks about joining the judge's table on The X Factor, according to Extra.

"They've been talking. I have no idea what's going on with that. I think they've been talking to a lot of people," Cibrian says.

"I think she would be unbelievable on a show like that. As a mentor, which is key for that show, The X Factor, I think she has a lot of great input and actually could help these people out. Plus, she can sing."



LeAnn Rimes

Seyfried has puppy love

Rumoured couple Amanda Seyfried and Josh Hartnett seem to be enjoying the domestic side of life together.

Last week, the pair were spotted grocery shopping in L.A., and this week they hit the beach for a play-date for their dogs, according to People magazine.

While her feelings for Hartnett are unconfirmed, Seyfried has made it clear how she feels about her pooch.

"I'm obsessed with my dog," she previously told the magazine. "He's become my son and my light source and kind of a saviour to a lot of people, a lot of my friends."

Twitter



@lindsaylohan
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@RyanSeacrest

Romance for the ladies, bloodshed for the fellas...after a century of filmmaking, @TheHungerGames has finally mastered the ultimate date movie



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A Rihanna and Ashton booty call?



Rihanna



Ashton Kutcher

Rihanna was spotted making a late-night visit to the home of Ashton Kutcher this week, according to TMZ, which posted photos of the singer's black SUV pulling up to the Two and a Half Men star's home.

Rihanna reportedly arrived around midnight — her full security team — and stayed until about 4 a.m.

Adding intrigue to the story is the fact that TMZ removed the item from its site shortly after posting it.

We'll say a little prayer for you, Tebow

NFL star Tim Tebow, who was traded to the New York Jets this week, apparently has things besides football on his mind.

Tebow reportedly has his eye on Glee star Dianna Agron, despite the actress' ongoing relationship with Captain America sidekick Sebastian Stan, according to Fox News.

"Tim has made no secret that he likes Dianna, and told her so, but she has remained faithful to Sebastian," a source says.

But a rumoured split between the couple may be just the opening Tebow needs, even if Agron's rep insists reports of a breakup with Stan are "not true."



Dianna Agron



Tim Tebow

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Liquid Assets

A Canadian Mad Men connection



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
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Even with the fear of creating a chink in my hipster armour, I have to confess that until recently I'd never seen an episode of *Mad Men*.

Sure, I've admired Christina Hendricks' talents and had dug out my skinny '80s ties from the back of my closet so I could channel my inner Don Draper, but when it came to watching the soap opera at Sterling Cooper, I just never got around to it.

Now that I'm caught up, I regret not realizing the amazing connection the series has with liquor — especially when it comes to Draper's love for our nation's namesake spirit Canadian Club Whisky (750 ml, \$22.99 - \$26.98).

First distilled in 1858 by Hiram Walker, C. C.'s aged blend of rye, corn, rye malt and barley malt was a prohibition favourite (a shout out to you Boardwalk Empire fans) that's kept its seductive, mixable caché well past the *Mad Men* era all the way to today.

Soft, lightly malted and eminently mixable (try using it as the foundation for your next Bloody Caesar), Canadian Club just happens to be the base of an Old Fashioned — Draper's favourite cocktail.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



This recipe serves 12. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dine just like TV ad exec Don Draper

Avocado and Crab Canapés. The popular show returns on Sunday, so get in the mood with eats from Don Draper's era

Does Don Draper do finger food? Judging by the first four seasons of TV's popular *Mad Men* show it doesn't seem likely unless we're talking about a belt of bourbon with a couple of smoking hot Lucky Strikes on the side.

But since that hardly sounds appetizing, we've come up with something a

little tastier to greet the return of *Mad Men* on AMC on March 25.

Try this delicious avocado and crab mini sandwich if you're looking to get in the *Mad Men* mood. Avocado — both as a food and colour — was a big hit in the 1960s kitchen. This combo brings in a hint of California, the "Tomorrowland" state where Draper goes to overcome his past.

What will happen this season? Who knows? The show creators are known for being stingy with spoilers. But it seems a safe bet this recipe will make for a perfectly swell party.

1. Heat the oven to 200 C (400 F).

2. Brush each slice of baguette on both sides with some of melted butter. Arrange bread on a rimmed baking sheet, then season lightly with salt and pepper.

3. Bake the bread for 6 to 7 minutes or until it is toasted and lightly golden.

4. In a small bowl, whisk

together the lemon juice, Dijon mustard, hot sauce and olive oil. Gently stir in chopped pimento, avocado cubes and crab meat.

5. Arrange baguette slices on a serving platter. Top each with some of the avocado and crab salad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 12 slices (cut 1 cm/1/2 inch thick) baguette
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) butter, melted
- Salt and ground black pepper, to taste
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) lemon juice
- 5 ml (1 tsp) Dijon mustard or yellow mustard
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) hot sauce
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) olive oil
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped pimento
- 1 avocado, pitted and cubed
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) lump crab meat

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3 LIFE

Cookbook

The Unofficial Mad Men Cookbook

The Unofficial *Mad Men* Cookbook serves up more than 70 recipes to satisfy a *Mad Men* appetite. From the tables of Manhattan's most legendary restaurants and bars to the Drapers' Around the World dinner, this is your entrée to the culinary world of Man Men-era New York.

Packed with period detail, The Unofficial *Mad Men* Cookbook provides invaluable historical and cultural context for the food and drink featured in the show, tips on throwing a successful '60s cocktail party, and even a guide to favoured *Mad Men* hangouts. Every recipe inside is authentic to the time.

Recipes include: Sardi's Steak Tartar, Connie's Waldorf Salad, Sal's Spaghetti and Meatballs, Pat Nixon's Date Nut Bread, Lindy's Cheery Cheesecake and more.

METRO

On the web



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Photo: Steven Primm

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Halifax Rainmen guard Taliek Brown splits through a pair of London Lightning defenders during the second half of Game 4 of the National Basketball League of Canada final at the Metro Centre on Thursday. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Rainmen dig deep to strike down Lightning

NBL of Canada. With remarkable enegery, Halifax forces a deciding game



MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Rainmen dug deep and found a reserve of

energy few thought they had. And they used it to dig themselves out of a deep hole.

The Rainmen, playing their sixth game in eight days with their two off-days occupied by air travel, had remarkable spring in their step on Thursday in a 93-85 win over the London Lightning in front of a roaring crowd of 3,842 at the Metro Centre.

The win brought the Rainmen back from a 2-0 deficit in

the National Basketball League of Canada final and forced a fifth and deciding game on Sunday at 3 p.m. in Ontario.

"We, as a team, are exhausted," admitted veteran forward Eric Crookshank. "We're exhausted."

"It's so tough right now," added point guard Taliek Brown, shaking his head. "We're just pulling through to try to make it happen. Finally, we get some rest."

Trailing by six points at halftime, it looked grim for the Rainmen. But rather than allow fatigue to wash over them, they dominated the Lightning with a 26-10 third quarter and grabbed a 10-point lead. It was all the separation they needed.

London won every other quarter, but was stymied by Halifax's swarming full-court defence in the third and other critical moments.

Lightning

Freeman: 'It's going to be ugly for them' in London

Home is where the London Lightning is heading, and Gabe Freeman couldn't be happier.

"They don't want to play in London just like we don't want to play here," said the Lightning forward and National Basketball League of Canada MVP. "It's going to be ugly for them — just like it was ugly for us here."

Freeman's Lightning squandered a 2-0 lead in the NBL of Canada final with back-to-back losses to the Halifax Rainmen at the Metro Centre, but the stats tell you why he's looking forward to going home with a chance to clinch a championship.

London has won 14 straight games at John Labatt Centre and has a 19-2 home-court record.

"We get a chance to win on our home court, and they get to see the truth," Freeman said.

The Rainmen, who credited big loud crowds for their two home wins, admitted it will be more challenging to win on the road, where they are just 7-13 this season.

"It's really tough to play in that environment," said Rainmen guard Taliek Brown. "But without our home crowd we'll go out and play our hardest because we know everybody's watching (on TV)." **MATTHEW WUEST/METRO**



Gabe Freeman RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

4 SPORTS

NBL of Canada

Down to the wire for Rainmen and Lightning

Sunday's deciding Game 5 of the National Basketball League of Canada final between the Halifax Rainmen and London Lightning will be televised live on EastLink starting at 3 p.m.



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Wildcats formidable foe for favoured Moose

QMJHL playoffs.

Long-time Maritime rivals open QMJHL first round on Friday and Saturday at the Metro Centre



MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

From solid goaltending to terrific special teams to a dangerous top line, the Moncton Wildcats are an underdog with a menacing bite.

The Halifax Mooseheads, 18-point favourites in the QMJHL first round, shouldn't need to be told that heading into Games 1 and 2 at the Metro Centre on Friday and Saturday.

The Wildcats have beaten the Mooseheads in five out of eight meetings this season and fired a big warning shot with a 7-1 blowout just two weeks ago.

"We're taking the series as if we're the underdog," said Mooseheads leading scorer Nathan MacKinnon, flipping the script.

"People think Moncton has had our number this year," he said. "We're not out to prove anybody wrong, but we're going to try to show people we're the stronger team."

Behind the respected defensive system of veteran head coach Danny Flynn, 19-year-old goaltender Roman Will helped the Wildcats maintain the QMJHL's fifth-best goals-against average and second-best penalty kill.

But scoring is the Wildcats' Achilles' heel.

Their 2.79 goals per game were the lowest in the QMJHL, and although their power play hums along at an efficient 22.6 per cent, the trio of Marek Hrivik and



Mooseheads captain Cameron Critchlow (left) and leading scorer Nathan MacKinnon (right) talk things over before a faceoff this season. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

twin brothers Alex and Alain Saulnier combined for 47.3 per cent of their total scoring output.

"They're a good team and they have a good power play, and that's where they score most of their goals," said Mooseheads captain Cameron Critchlow. "We have to key on that line, obviously, and make sure we keep a close eye on them."

The Wildcats are calling defence their key to the series.

"Halifax has one of the most talented teams in this league, so we have to do our best to limit their chances," Flynn said. "In addition to having three or four out-

standing players, they have tremendous depth."

The Mooseheads had their ups and downs this season, but they showed in February what they were made of when they posted a 7-2 record over a 19-day stretch and earned wins over the nationally-ranked Shawinigan Cataractes and Victoriaville Tigres.

Incredibly, they didn't lose more than two games in a row during the 68-game season.

"We've learned the way we need to play to have success," said head coach Dominique Ducharme. "We need to carry that into the playoffs."

Injury report

Hannay returns, Mooseheads healthier than ever

The Halifax Mooseheads are almost healthy after learning veteran defenceman Sawyer Hannay will return from a concussion on Friday.

Hannay returns to the lineup along with winger Martin Frk, who missed Sunday's game with an upper-body injury, and fellow blueliner Steve Gillard, who came back from a concussion last week

after a four-month absence.

The 19-year-old Hannay has been out since Feb. 8 with a concussion.

Winger Darcy Ashley (four-game suspension) and goaltender Anthony Terenzio (concussion) are the only players not available for Friday's contest.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO



Sawyer Hannay. SUBMITTED/QMJHL

First-round opponent

Tremendous Will drives Moncton Wildcats' success

How do you trade your top two defencemen and actually improve your win-loss record? If you're the Moncton Wildcats, a 19-year-old goaltender named Roman Will has a lot to do with it.

Will, a Plzen, Czech Republic native in his first QMJHL season, helped the Wildcats go 14-12-2 in the new year after the team dealt Canadian world junior-star Brandon Gormley to the Shawinigan Cataractes and Tampa Bay Lightning prospect Daniel Milan to the Victoriaville Tigres.

That .500 winning percentage was a slight improvement over the .450 mark they posted after starting the season 18-19-3.

"Our defence is very young and Roman has been a very important part of us keeping our goals-against down as we bring them along," said Wildcats head coach Danny Flynn.

The six-foot-one Will, nabbed by Moncton with the 29th overall pick in last June's Canadian Hockey League import draft, appeared in 63 of 68 games to help the Wildcats finish with the sixth-best team defensive record in the QMJHL.

He won 29 games and had a 2.77 goals-against average to go along with a .913 save percentage.

"Roman had an excellent season," Flynn said. "We were really optimistic he'd come in and give us good, veteran goaltending, but he's been even better than that. He's been a real key."

Meantime Devon MacAusland, one of the Moncton Wildcats' key secondary scorers, is "questionable" for Game 1 because of an "upper-body injury," according to head coach Danny Flynn.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO



Roman Will. SUBMITTED/QMJHL

Mooseheads hope to end drought

Fans of the Halifax Mooseheads haven't seen a playoff victory since April 11, 2008, almost four full years ago.

Co-MVPs Nathan MacKinnon and Zach Fucile were just 12 years old when that happened, while forward/defenceman Travis Randell was a rookie on a squad led by Jakub Voracek and Brad Marchand.

With better than average ticket pre-sales, the Mooseheads want to end the drought on home ice this weekend and forget about it.

"Hopefully we can break that streak," said Mooseheads centre Nathan MacKinnon. "Obviously it's not a streak we're proud of, but we're going to try to come out and get as many wins as we can."

A long time

1,443

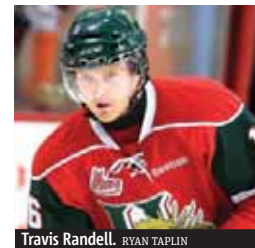
Number of days, including Friday, since the Mooseheads last won a QMJHL play-off game, at home or otherwise.

The Mooseheads' last home playoff win came in

the 2008 quarter-finals when they defeated the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles 5-2. They went on to be swept by the Gatineau Olympiques in the semifinals.

Halifax missed the playoffs in 2008-09 and 2009-10 and was swept 4-0 by the Montreal Juniors in the first round last season.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO



Travis Randell. RYAN TAPLIN

NHL awaiting players' union to start talks: Bettman

NHL. 'We've been ready to go for months', says commish on collective bargaining talks

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said Thursday he's ready to meet with the players union to negotiate a new contract, but it's up to the union to decide when that might happen.

Bettman said the NHL Players' Association hasn't yet indicated that it's ready.

"That's something that we're relying on the union for right now," Bettman said of the timing on talks. "There's a new executive director and he's getting up to speed, meeting with his constituents and when the union's ready, then we'll start."

Money

57%

Revenue sharing is expected to play a large role in the talks, with NHL owners wanting to cut the players' share of league revenues from 57 per cent.

Donald Fehr, who previously led the union for Major League Baseball players, became executive director of the NHLPA in December 2010.

Union spokesman Jonathan Weatherdon said in an emailed statement that the union was meeting with players to prepare for negotiations.

"At our request, the NHL recently supplied the NHLPA with some initial financial information that we are currently reviewing," Weatherdon said. "While we do not

have a set date for formal negotiations to begin, we expect negotiations will begin when we have players available to participate in bargaining sessions."

The Stanley Cup finals are scheduled to end in June.

Bettman declined to say what the league is looking for in renewing the seven-year deal set to expire Sept. 15.

"I don't discuss what we're looking for in collective bargaining publicly," he said. "That's best done across the table with the principals."

Team owners are expected to meet in Las Vegas when the NHL Awards are held.

Bettman met with team presidents at the Encore Las Vegas hotel-casino, the site of the awards last June. Bettman said they discussed marketing initiatives, TV contracts and general business.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cardinals defence stifles Spartans

Keith Appling of the Michigan State Spartans goes up for a shot between Gorgui Dieng, left, and Jared Swopshire of the Louisville Cardinals in the NCAA West Regional Semifinal game Thursday night in Phoenix. The Spartans were the first No. 1 seed to lose in the tournament. JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

Radulov scores, but Penguins win

Nashville's Alexander Radulov scored in his return to the NHL after four years in Russia, but the Penguins picked apart Predators goalie Pekka Rinne as Pittsburgh clinched a playoff spot with Thursday's 5-1 win.

Sidney Crosby failed to score for the 12th time in the 13 games he's played this season, though it hardly mattered as Evgeni Malkin scored a pair with Chris Kunitz, Matt Cooke and Pascal Dupuis adding singles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

49ers bolster receiving corps

The San Francisco 49ers took another step to bolster their receiving corps by bringing back Ted Ginn Jr. on a one-year contract after finalizing a two-year deal with Mario Manningham.

The team announced the signings Thursday. Manningham agreed to the deal last Saturday but took a few days to complete all the details. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer. Canada earns draw in qualifier

Canada opened the CONCACAF Olympic men's soccer qualifying tournament with a 0-0 draw with El Salvador on Thursday.

Canada goalkeeper Michal Misiewicz was especially strong for Canada, making a couple of big saves in Nashville, Tenn.

The 21-year-old goalkeeper, who plays for FC Edmonton on the North American Soccer League, made a particular stunning stop in the first half, when an El Salvador attacker was alone in front of the goal but Misiewicz got his hand on the shot. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canada goalkeeper Michal Misiewicz blocks a shot by El Salvador's Andres Flores on Thursday. MARK HUMPHREY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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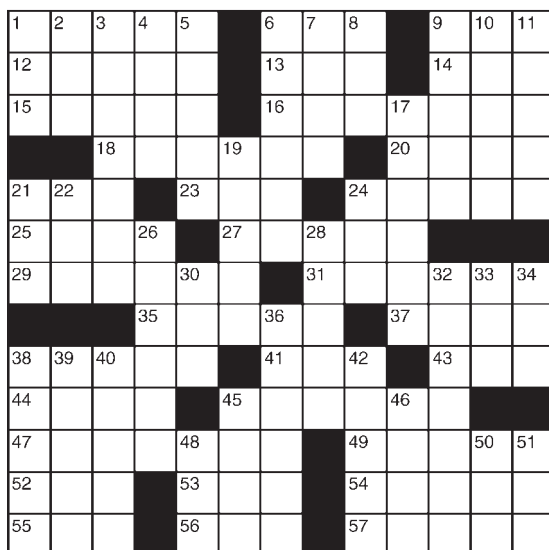
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metr^o

Crossword

Across

1 Concentrate (on)
6 Sprite
9 Tend 7-Down
12 Welsh dog
13 Arrest
14 Japanese sash
15 Youngster
16 Microblogging service
18 Cravat holder
20 Firetruck necessity
21 Likely
23 [Uncorrected]
24 Suffering from ennui
25 Oboe insert
27 Snake poison
29 Quarterback Dan
31 Not transparent
35 Reached
37 Foolproof
38 Cockeyed
41 Supplement, with "out"
43 Cartoonist's supply
44 Camera part
45 Cheerleaders' companion
47 Sparkle
49 Wood-shop machine
52 Type squares
53 Flightless bird
54 Had a home-cooked meal
55 "Go, team!"
56 Prune
57 Midafternoon
Down
1 Airwaves watchdog org.
2 "— la-la!"
3 Animal
4 Wrinkly fruit
5 Factions
6 Lure
7 Suburban green

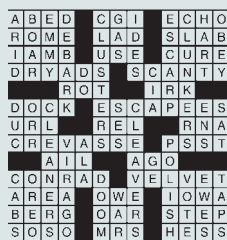


8 J. Edgar's org.
9 Engine
10 Not just plump
11 Overcaffeinated
17 Resurrection doubter
19 Turning point
21 Branch
22 Potpie veggie
24 Jazz style
26 Readers' —
28 Crannies' counterparts
30 Present
32 Defeatist
33 Grecian vessel
34 Cartoon shriek
36 Make into confetti
38 Rags-to-riches author

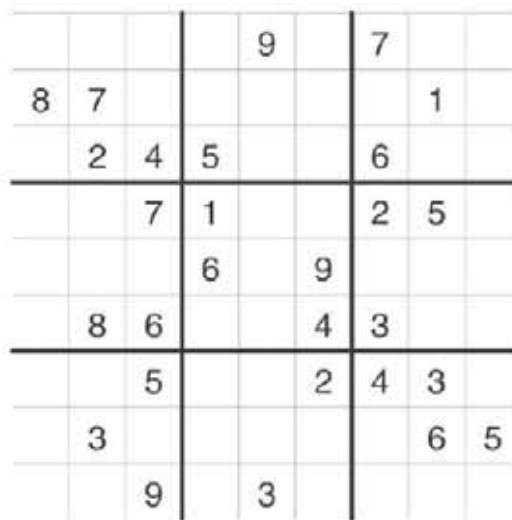
39 Alabama city
40 Stuffed delicatessen
42 Brilliance
45 Office reminder
46 Solemn pledge
48 Aviv lead-in
50 Hasten
51 Away from WSW

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer



Send a kiss

- **Husband.** Happy Birthday Husband! I'm so proud of all you've accomplished this past year! I am so excited for what your future holds and I am so lucky to be spending it by your side. You're my everything.<3 From Your Panda Bear
- **Sexy Greg.** Is it love? Infatuation? All I know is the warm weather is coming and so are the cut off shorts, wool socks and red work boots ... When you walk by I can't get enough of your crazy calfs ... And your cinnamon breath. oh how I long to be the honey to your peanut butter sandwich ... Make a noise like a duck! Scooter
- **My Penguin.** You are my whole world. From the moment I wake until the moment I fall asleep, you are on my mind and in my thoughts. I never thought it was possible to love this much or feel something this big. I have made my share of mistakes with you but, loving you will never be one of them. I will always be there to protect you and make you feel safe. My only wish is to spend the rest of my life finding new ways to make you happy. From Big Love

Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21 - April 20.

As retrograde Mercury slips out of your sign, you won't be quite so sure about your opinions as you usually are — and that's good.

♉ Taurus | April 21 - May 21.

Make this an ideas day, a day when you make an effort to think outside the box.

♊ Gemini | May 22 - June 20.

There's no point in being anxious. Look at your situation calmly because only when you do that are you going to find the answers.

♊ Cancer | June 21 - July 22.

You may not be able to explain why you don't trust someone who seems honest, but you know better than to ignore your instincts.

♌ Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22.

Start thinking seriously about what you can and can't afford and how you're going to pay what you owe.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22.

If you need to put a relationship on a firmer footing, the return of Mercury to your opposite sign today will help you.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22.

Don't be slow to junk old routines if it becomes obvious that they are no longer up to the task of getting you from where you are now to where you want to be tomorrow.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21.

You need to think more seriously about a creative or artistic venture you've just been toying with.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21.

Today's cosmic influences will give you the opportunity to smooth things out at home.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan. 20.

Be careful what you say today because you could easily let something slip that would have been better to keep to yourself.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb. 18.

Are you following a certain course of action because that is what you really want to do or because you think it is expected of you?

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20.

You won't have just one good idea today, you'll have dozens. Write them down and decide what ones to pursue later. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Today

9°/-4°
Variable

Saturday

4°/-2°
Sunny

Your #1 weather forecast now available in HD.
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Caption Contest

"A little rough for hackie sack!"

Rick

LEE JIN-MAN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!



You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.
Edmonton, Alberta – The 2012 Chevrolet Traverse is standing out while standing still in front of this suburban home. When you're a Consumer's Digest Best Buy and have a 5- Star NHTSA safety rating, you'll want to soak in the sun too.



1- Added additional window sill decor to the left of image 2- Removed flower from bottom left of image 3- Lowered plants left of the 2012 Chevrolet Traverse 4- Removed step from front of house 5- Added second vase left of the 2012 Chevrolet Traverse 6- Removed additional window from rear of house 7- Removed window ledge from window above the 2012 Chevrolet Traverse 8- Removed branch from in front of garage 9- Added additional windows to garage door 10- Removed light from right side of garage



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